

illiteracy percentage in Kerala as 9%, whereas some days back it appeared in the press that Kerala is the first State in the country which has achieved 100 per cent literacy. Why such a discrepancy in the reply? It is beyond my comprehension. Will the Minister be pleased to correct his reply?

**SHRI ARJUN SINGH :** Sir, I will get it corrected according to the latest position, but these figures are based on the census.

[English]

**SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that the Integrated Child Development Scheme has a very close link with the attendance of the school-going children at the primary level and it will have a close link with the attendance of the school going children. May I know whether this Integrated Child Development Scheme which is implemented at a very limited level in the country, will be implemented in each and every Block of the country, specially in those Blocks where the attendance at the primary level is going down?

**SHRI ARJUN SINGH :** Sir, it goes without saying that the success of the literacy campaign does not depend on only one line of action taken by any single department or any single programme. The total literacy campaign has to have components from all those areas which go, directly or indirectly, into helping the children to attend school and maintaining their situation. The scheme mentioned by the hon. Member definitely has a bearing. But I can not say just now how it will be related to each and every area in the campaign for this programme.

#### EDUCATION POLICY

\*23. **SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHARY :** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to make any changes in the present Education Policy in the light of the report of National Policy on Education Review Committee; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) :** (a) and (b) : The National Policy on Education 1986 was formulated on the basis of a national consensus and it contains the framework for development of all aspects of education. The Policy, inter alia, envisages that the implementation of its various parameters will be reviewed every five years. As part of the review, the recommendations made by the NPE Review Committee will be taken into account.

**SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHARY :** Sir, at the outset, I want to say that it is said that it was a national consensus. It was never a national consensus because three States have not implemented this scheme. I want to know whether the Government is aware of those. Even by the teachers community it was considered that the 1986 Education Policy was an elitist education policy. The Education Policy was really declared before a national consensus was achieved.

So, in view of the fact that education being a very basic question, will the Government take all the objections that were then raised against this policy into consideration to come to a real national consensus?

**SHRI ARJUN SINGH :** Sir, the policy being as far reaching and wide ranging the Educational Policy, it is not possible to say that every one agrees with it. But this much is correct that all the forums that are concerned with the formulation of the policy discuss the policy, comments of the State Governments are taken and then the policy decision is taken. That is how you arrive at a policy decision.

**SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA :** The West Bengal State Government had objected to it.

**SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHARY :** Tamil Nadu and Assam also.

**SHRI ARJUN SINGH :** May be on some aspects they don't agree. (Interruptions). Parliament approved of it. So after Parliament has approved, I think it should be taken as approved by consensus. That is what I can say. So, I am not putting one State against the other.

But the fact remains that Parliament approved that policy.

Now, to the specific question that has been raised, I would say that any specific suggestion made for improving the policy is most welcome and will be considered.

**SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHARY :** The Committee that was appointed by the previous N. F. Government under the Chairmanship of Acharya Ramamurti had recommended many things. My question is :

Which part of the Committee's recommendations the Government accepted? The Government has not given any concrete answer to that. So, I want to know again which aspects of Ramamurti Committee's recommendations the Government is taking into consideration ?

**SHRI ARJUN SINGH :** Sir, on this issue, I have, with your permission, to say something which I may be permitted to say. The recommendations of this Ramamurti Committee were received in December 1990. After that, in March 1991 the C.A.B.E. decides to appoint a sub-committee on the review of N.P.E. After that, now we have decided to appoint that sub-committee. It will go into the recommendations of the Ramamurti Committee and determine what are the aspects that should be taken into account. But in the mean time I would like to inform the House that keeping in view the statements in the Congress (I) Election Manifesto and the relevant paragraph in the President's Address to both the Houses of Parliament on 10th July 1991, it is stated that it is proposed to set up a C.A.B.E. Committee to undertake review of the implementation of the various parameters of the new policy as envisaged in para 11.5 of N.P.E. taking into account the recommendations of Ramamurti Committee and other relevant developments since the policy was formulated. It may be stated, however, that no fundamental change will be made in the policy and its implementation will resume new platform.

(Translation) 9-10

**SHRI RABI RAY :** Hon. Minister has accepted on the floor of the House that National Education Policy is based on the

national consensus. Does the Hon. Minister agree with the recommendation of Kothari Commission about the primary education wherein it has been stated that all children, irrespective of being the son or daughter of the President, Prime Minister, influential persons or an ordinary peasant, should study in the same school, i.e. the neighbourhood school? It had been agreed unanimously in 1986 and Ramamurthy Committee has also agreed with it. But it was opposed throughout the country. Neighbourhood Schools have not yet been set up. In the present set-up of the primary education of the country the children of the rich and influential people study in Public Schools and the children of peasants, labourers and MPs study in Corporation and village panchayat schools. Such a dichotomy creates a discrimination between the rich and the poor people.

I would like to impress upon the hon. Minister that Kothari Commission, in the light of provisions of the Constitution, has recommended that medium of instruction for primary education should be mother-tongue and there should be uniform primary education throughout the country. For the last so many years we have been listening that a revolution will be brought about in the education policy in the country in the sense that the Public Schools, where children of rich people are studying and where education is imparted through English medium would be closed down, but practically there is reversal of the same. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what steps have been taken to implement the recommendations of Kothari Commission on primary education on which there is a consensus in parliament?

**SHRI ARJUN SINGH :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, there should be no misunderstanding in this respect because this subject has not been neglected at all in the education policy of 1986. The point to which the hon. Member is referring was also covered in that policy statement.

(Interruptions)

**SHRI RABI RAY :** I am also saying that there was consensus on it, but the position is quite contrary to it.

**SHRI ARJUN SINGH** : I do not think that the position is quite opposite but there may be need to accelerate the pace of progress in this direction.

(English)

**SHRI M. R. JANARTHANAN**: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been stated in the President's Address that there is a need to improve the quality of education. At present there is a gap between the 'world of work' and the 'world of learning'. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what are the changes in the New Education Policy so that this gap between 'world of work' and 'world of learning' can be minimised.

**SHRI ARJUN SINGH**: Sir, I would certainly thank the hon. Member for drawing attention to the President's Address and when the Address is debated I am sure this matter will also be referred to in detail. But so far as the general question of improvement of education is concerned, I think their parameters are fairly well known. All I can say is that this will have to be an all round effort so that any discrepancy or discrimination that have developed in the course of years will be removed and in their removal I think all of us will have to give our hands.

**SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA**: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister has referred to the Congress(I) Election manifesto and also to the President's Address. In neither of these documents nor in the letter recently circulated among the MPs by the hon. Minister do we find any mention of any commitment to free and compulsory school education for all our children. I would like to point out that it is precisely because we have not been able to make the education free and compulsory for our children, about 50 per cent of them are unable to go to schools. About 40 to 45 per cent of these children live under very severe economic constraints and this is why they are unable to go to schools at all.

Now I would like to ask the Minister as to whether it is also part of the commitment of this Government to institute free and compulsory education, universal education and to open up schools for children

who are unable to go to schools as suggested by the Ramamurthy Committee.

**SHRI ARJUN SINGH**: About the Ramamurthy Committee report, I would not like to say anything now because the report is going to be under review and when a decision is taken up, I would say about it.

So far as the need for universalisation of education is concerned, I do not think it needs to be emphasised because that is one of the thrust areas and I am sure, we will try to move very fast in that direction.

[Translation]

**SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA**: Mr. Speaker, Sir, even after so many years of independence millions of children are illiterate in our country. I would like to know the number of States where provision for compulsory education has been made?

(English)

**SHRI ARJUN SINGH**: I will require notice to answer this.

[Translation]

**SHRI NARAIN SINGH CHAUDHRI**: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Navodaya Vidyalayas have been opened under the new education policy and the children studying in these schools are given some financial concessions also. Does government, propose to provide for reservation for the children belonging to economically weaker sections, backward classes of rural areas, harijans and adivasis in the Navodaya Vidyalayas.

**SHRI ARJUN SINGH**: Mr. Speaker, Sir, under the existing provisions, opportunity of admission to Navodaya Vidyalayas is available to one and all. The Rama Murthy Committee has made some recommendations in this regard and we will welcome any other suggestions that are made. I cannot say about any particular recommendation, but on the whole, all the recommendations or suggestions will be duly considered and accepted, if considered appropriate.

**SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, there should be a uniform pattern of education in the country and lessons on secularism, patriotism and social justice should be included in the course of study. Today, alongwith patriotism, secularism is also important. But we cannot expect our children to become secular on growing up if we teach them that people belonging to a particular religion are foreigners or such and such people are foreigners. Does the Government propose to delete such portions from the books which are non-secular and also issue necessary guidelines to States in this regard as some initial steps had been taken during our Government so as to ensure that education, which is non-secular and gives impetus to communal forces, is not imparted to children.

**SHRI ARJUN SINGH:** I fully agree with the views of the hon. Member. I cannot say that I can order deletion of all such portions from each and every text-book, but I do feel that such text-books should be produced which highlight our cultural integrity and diversity and shun disintegration and confrontation.

#### PROPOSAL TO INCREASE NAVODAYA VIDYALAYAS

\*26. **SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV:** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT. be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the number of Navodaya Vidyalayas; and

(b) if so, the extent of such increase, envisaged, State-wise?

[English]

**THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Scheme of Navodaya Vidyalaya envisages establishment of a Navodaya Vidyalaya in each district.

[Translation]

**SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have asked a very simple question from the hon. Minister of Human Resource Development; whether government proposes to increase the number of envisaged, Navodaya Vidyalayas and

if so, extent of such increase, statewise. But this has not been replied. As has just been said by Shri Rabi Ray the object behind opening Navodaya Vidyalaya, as per the recommendations of Kothari Commission, was to provide maximum facilities of education to the people of rural areas. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the time by which Navodaya Vidyalayas will be set up in each and every district in the country?

**SHRI ARJUN SINGH:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not want to restrict myself to the scope of the question only. In fact, had the process continued uninterrupted, we might have reached nearer to the target of establishing Navodaya Vidyalayas in each and every district of the country. It is a different issue and is not linked with the original question. I cannot give any definite date, but it will be our sincere effort. So far 275 schools have been opened in the country. It will be the endeavour of the Government, to achieve the target by opening Navodaya Vidyalayas in all the 750 districts of the country.

**SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, Bihar is the most backward State in the country and the Saharsa Commissioner has been declared industrially and educationally backward by the Central Government. Despite its being a division, no Navodaya Vidyalaya has been opened there. I would like to know whether the Government proposes to set up a Navodaya Vidyalaya in Saharsa during the current financial year.

**SHRI ARJUN SINGH:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, as per the information available with me. Navodaya Vidyalayas have been opened in 25 out of the 39 districts in Bihar. As regards the question of the hon. Member, as to why a Navodaya Vidyalaya could not be set up there. I can furnish the details after collecting the required information.

**SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV:** I am giving the information.

**SHRI ARJUN SINGH:** I am not contradicting the information provided by the hon. Member, but let me also ascertain the views of the Government of Bihar in the matter.